



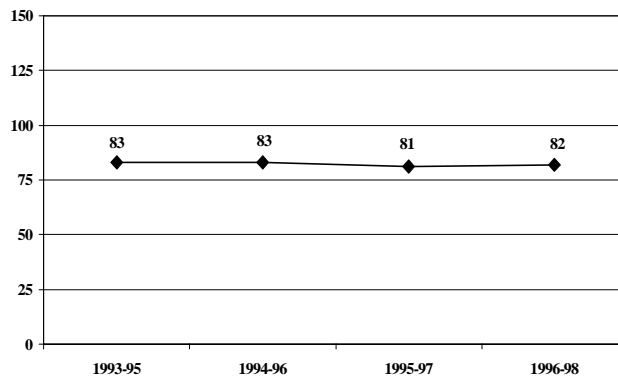
Community HealthWatch

October 2000

Focus on Infant and Child Health

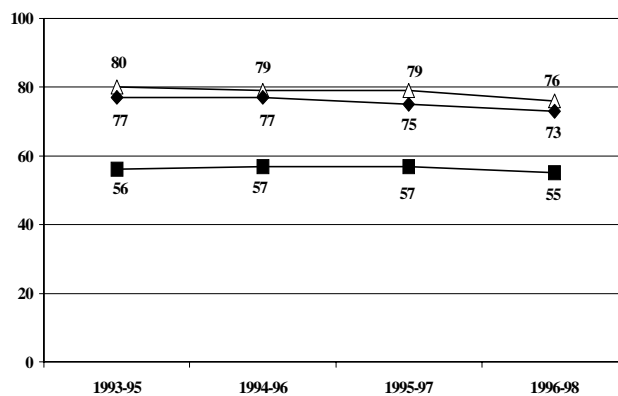
The Community HealthWatch report cards are developed by the Kent County Health Department to present health information that is being monitored by Healthy Kent 2010, a community committee dedicated to improving our county's health. This report card focuses on infant and child health, and factors that are known to affect health outcomes for children: the age of the mother, access to and receiving timely and quality prenatal care, and disease prevention through childhood immunization. The stated goal of the Healthy Kent 2010 Infant Health Team is to reduce racial disparities in infant mortality rates in Kent County. Positively impacting each of the indicators listed below will be necessary to reach that goal.

Teen Pregnancy (per 1,000)



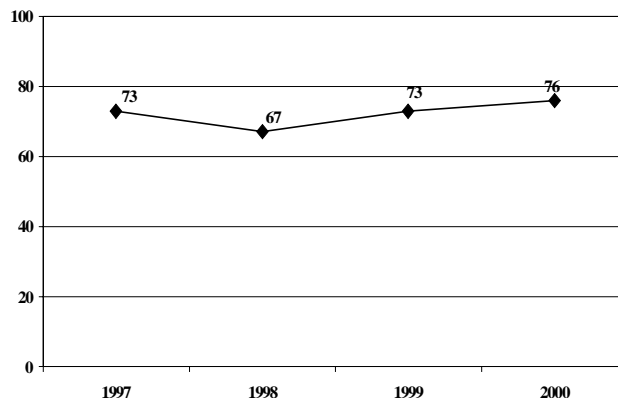
The **teen pregnancy rate** is an estimate of the proportion of women aged 15-19 who had a live birth, induced abortion, or miscarriage during a given year. Teen mothers are at increased risk of delivering an infant with a poor health outcome. The teen pregnancy rate has remained relatively stable since 1993, but is currently higher than the rate for Michigan. Lack of education and inconsistent birth control practices are two factors that contribute to teen pregnancies.

Timely Prenatal Care (percentage)



Timely prenatal care – prenatal care beginning during the first trimester of pregnancy - is an indicator of access to care and is associated with healthier birth outcomes. Since 1993, the rate of timely prenatal care has declined overall in Kent County, and black women have consistently reported significantly lower rates than white women. Reducing this disparity in prenatal care would likely help improve black infant health outcomes.

KCHD Immunization Rate



The rate of **immunization** for Health Department clients has increased since 1997. Although similar to the rate for Michigan overall, it is somewhat lower than the national rate. This table shows the percentage of clients who received 4 DTP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 HiB, and 3 Hepatitis B vaccinations on schedule. Immunization continues to be the single most effective means of protecting children's health.